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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Montana Campus Compact Campus Corps (MTCC) Student Mentors Tribal Youth about Domestic Violence

On the Salish Kootenai Reservation in Pablo, MT, Salish Kootenai College student and MTCC Campus Corps member, Rebecca Longtree, has been mentoring 7th-12th grade girls at Two Eagle High School about domestic violence awareness and prevention in a "Healthy Relationship" class.

Native American women experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the United States, according to a report released by the Department of Justice, American Indians and Crime, a fact Longtree, who has been a victim of domestic abuse on multiple occasions, fully understands.

"Some of my students have already been in severely abusive relationships with their partners, see domestic violence everyday in their homes, are neglected, have been raped, are being abused," said Longtree. "If this cycle is not changed, it will be the norm for their children."

Longtree, a native of Tacoma, WA, is a fixture for the girls at Two Eagle High School, acting as a confidant and providing "from experience" advice and solutions.

"They learn from me, and take whatever they can from me being a mentor to them, or even just a positive presence in their lives," she said. "And in turn, they give me strength and pride in my everyday life."

The Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) programs benefit community members such as low-income families, the elderly, at-risk youth, and migrant and minority groups, by supporting civic engagement activities including community service, service-learning and building campus-community partnerships. MTCC is the only statewide higher education organization whose primary purpose is to prepare the next generation of informed, active, committed citizen leaders for Montana.

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